

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 01218 281327Z
ACTION AF-10

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R 281300Z AUG 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1031
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS COTONOU 1218

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, ICJ, DM
SUBJ: BENINESE CANDIDACY FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
(ICJ)

REF: STATE 214729

1. OFFICIALS OF MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE PROFESSED TO BE TOTALLY IN THE DARK ABOUT BOISSIER-PALUN'S CANDIDACY FOR THE ICJ. IF INDEED SUCH A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DISSEMINATED IN THE GOVERNMENT. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THAT MR. BOISSIER-PALUN HAS PUT FORWARD HIS OWN CANDIDACY WITHOUT INFORMING THE GOVERNMENT.

2. BACKGROUND: THE SON OF A FRENCH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATOR AND A BENINESE WOMAN, BOISSIER-PAHUN HOLDS BENINESE, FRENCH, AND SENAGALESE CITIZENSHIP. MUCH OF HIS LIFE HAS BEEN SPENT OUTSIDE OF BENIN, IN DAKAR, WHERE AS A LAWYER HE SERVED IN THE SENAGALESE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AND IN FRANCE. HE RETURNED TO BENIN IN THE LATE 1960'S AND ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO HAVE HIMSELF NAMED AS PRESIDENT. LATER, HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO ENGLAND, AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNESCO AFRICAN GROUP. POLITICAL VIEWS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN MODERATE AND PRO-WESTERN, IN THE 1960'S HE WAS CONSIDERED A STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST. PARKILL
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Message Attributes

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